

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /101 W
-----021817 231952Z /72

P R 231905Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1160
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2466

FOR ARA TODMAN AND ARELLANO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PSDC, EAID, TD, VE
SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

REF: CARACAS 8315

1. I WAS IN PROCESS OF PREPARING MESSAGE ON THE CLASHING
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES EXPRESSED BY GOV AND GOTT WHEN
AMBASSADOR VAKY'S PERCEPTIVE TELEGRAM ON SAME SUBJECT
ARRIVED HERE. I COMPLETELY AGREE THAT WE MAY BE HEADED
FOR A PROBLEM WHICH WE SHOULD BEGIN TO TRY TO SORT OUT.

2. FROM MY VANTAGE POINT, I WOULD DOWNPLAY THE IDEA OF
WILLIAMS' TESTINESS REGARDING VENEZUELA AS DUE TO
EXCLUSION FROM THE BOGOTA MEETING. THIS MAY HAVE
CONTRIBUTED IN SOME SMALL WAY, BUT IT WOULD BE A MINOR
FACTOR COMPARED TO HIS LONGSTANDING SUSPICION OF WHAT
HE BELIEVES ARE VENEZUELAN "IMPERIALIST" MOTIVES. A NEWER
FACTOR IN THE EQUATION MAY BE THE ROLE OF MICHAEL MANLEY
AS SELF-APPOINTED "BRIDGE" BETWEEN THE LATINS AND THE
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COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN. MANLEY'S STOCK IN PARTICULAR,
AND JAMACIA'S IN GENERAL, IS VERY LOW WITH INFLUENTIAL
CIRCLES HERE AND I DOUBT THAT WILLIAMS APPRECIATES MANLEY
AS A GO-BETWEEN ON IMPORTANT REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES.

3. IN ABSENCE OF REACTION FROM DEPT AS YET TO WILLIAMS'
CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL, I HAVE REFRAINED FROM SEEKING ANY

CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE AMBIGUITIES WE DETECTED ON THE POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN ROLE. BUT WILLIAMS IS AN EXPERT ON THE CARIBBEAN AND ON CARIBBEAN ORGANIZATIONS, AND HE MUST KNOW THAT THE CATEGORY OF CDB MEMBERS WOULD BY DEFINITION INCLUDE VENEZUELA.

4. AS THE DEPT AND EMBASSY CARACAS KNOW, HIGH-LEVEL GOTT FEELERS WERE MADE DURING THE RECENT ARELLANO VISIT HERE ON THE SUBJECT OF A POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN CLIMATE OF RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA. I HAVE HEARD NOTHING MORE ON THIS, BUT BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT HAVING FLOATED THIS WITH US THE GOTT REGARDS THE NEXT MOVE AS BEING UP TO US.

5. WILLIAMS' RAPID ACTION IN PRESENTING A CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL OBVIOUSLY OVERTAKES THE EARLIER SUGGESTION BY MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT THAT WILLIAMS WOULD HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT IF ASKED FOR THEM BY THE SECRETARY. HOWEVER, I SEE NO REASON WHY OUR RESPONSE TO THE WILLIAMS PROPOSAL--FORMAL OR INFORMAL--SHOULD AVOID ASKING THE QUESTION OF HOW TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA MIGHT WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER AS LEADERS IN WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A MAJOR EFFORT TO HELP THE POORER STATES IN THE REGION.

6. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS INITIATED A NUMBER OF ACTIONS TO ALLEVIATE OR OVERCOME LONGSTANDING POLITICAL
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STRAINS BETWEEN U.S. AND CERTAIN CARIBBEAN NATIONS. PROVIDED WE SERIOUSLY INTEND TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE RESOURCES NEEDED FOR A MAJOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO A SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MY GUT FEELING IS THAT HAVING GONE THE EXTRA MILE OURSELVES IT IS PERFECTLY REASONABLE FOR US TO URGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO SEEK WHATEVER POLITICAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO GET THE PLAN INTO ACTION.

7. IN SHORT, I SUGGEST THAT WE CONSIDER INFORMING BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT WE ARE READY TO SEEK FROM CONGRESS A MAJOR DONATION TO A SUB-REGIONAL CONSORTIUM, AT SAME TIME NOTING THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE OTHER TWO MAJOR DONORS IN THE REGION (GOTT AND GOV), AND ASKING EACH IF THEY ARE READY (WITH OR WITHOUT OUR PARTICIPATION OF FACILITATION) TO SEEK A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON THE MEDALITIES OF GETTING ON WITH THE TASK AT HAND. THIS APPROACH MIGHT WELL BE REBUFFED HERE, IN CARACAS, OR IN BOTH PLACES, BUT I WOULD PREFER TO SEE US TAKE POSITION OF HONEST BROKER BEFORE WE ARE FORCED INTO SITUATION WHERE WE MUST SIDE WITH ONE GOVERNMENT OR THE OTHER.

FOX

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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